

Free vet clinics treat up to 1000 pets

By: Sharon Deets, Associate Editor

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Rosebud Reservation- Animals and kids both benefited from an intensive pet care effort here last week. Veterinary clinics were held March 16-21 in Mission, Rosebud and Parmelee by a team of volunteer veterinarians and veterinary students from Rural Area Veterinary Services, Knoxville, TN. At the same time, a team from the Humane Society, Billings, MT, held programs in area schools.

The clinics were sponsored by Indian Health Service Environmental Health and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Health Administration, along with the RAVS team. Veterinarians Dr. Grant Seaman and Dr. Susan Monger supervised 25 second-, third-, and fourth-year students from universities in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts. Most medications and other supplies used during the clinics were donated and brought by the team. IHS supplied some of the rabies vaccination.

The team performed 225 spay and neutering surgeries; administered more than 900 vaccinations for rabies, distemper, parvo and deworming; and provided general animal care, trimming nails, checking eyes, treating ear mites and mange – and in one case, removing a black Lab's latest round of porcupine quills.

The Mission clinic was held March 16-17 at the 4-H Building south of town with 50 surgeries completed Sunday and 44 surgeries completed Monday. Despite inclement weather that kept many people and their pets home, the team performed 42 surgeries Tuesday and 34 surgeries Wednesday at the RST Water and Sewer garage at Rosebud. Clinics at Parmelee were held in the red A frame building with 38 surgeries completed Thursday and 17 during the half-day clinic Friday.

Charles Mack, Environmental Health supervisory service unit sanitarian, coordinated the clinics. He was assisted by Carl High Bear, service unit sanitarian and Mary Whipple, secretary. Anita Whipple, RST Health Administration director, arranged lodging and meals for the teams who stayed at the Rosebud Casino Quality Inn.

Community Health Representatives Arlene Black Bear, Priscilla White Horse and Glen Janis assisted with the clinics.

A four-member team of Humane Society educators with Dave Pauli, regional director of the Humane Society, presented age-appropriate programs to elementary students at Rosebud, St. Francis, north Elementary, South Elementary, Okreek and He-Dog Schools. The students were given free coloring books, t-shirts and key chains.

The K-3 presentations introduced dog bite prevention; 3rd-5th graders learned about pet responsibility and dog bite prevention, and 6th-8th graders heard about pet responsibility and career opportunities in animal fields.

The next veterinary clinic is being planned for summer 2004.